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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 PM-06 NSC-05 SS-15 /062 W
----------076309 2509082 /15
R 241210Z SEP 79
*FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM*
*TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3747*
*INFO USICA WASHDC*
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USICA FOR AF

E.O.: 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CT, TZ
*SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO BOKASSA OVERTHROW*

1. (U) LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE BOKASSA OUSTER. DRAWING UPON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY NEWS HAS CARRIED BOKASSA OUSTER AS LEAD STORY FOR PAST THREE DAYS. WHILE ARTICLES HAVE REPORTED OUSTER IN STRAIGHT FORWARD MANNER, STATEMENT BY NEW CAR PRESIDENT DACKO THAT HE PLANNED COUP WITH HELP OF FRANCE AND FRIENDLY AFRICAN NATIONS HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED.

2. (U) TWO EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED SO FAR. SUNDAY DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 23 WAS PREDICTABLY CRITICAL OF BOKASSA'S REPRESSIVE AND EXTRAVAGANT MISRULE. BOKASSA'S OUSTER IS VIEWED AS FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT NYERERE'S STATEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE RECENT OUSTER OF PRESIDENT MACIAS OF EQUITORIAL GUINEA THAT THE DAYS OF AFRICAN TYRANTS ARE NUMBERED. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES ON A CAUTIONARY NOTE ASKING WHETHER FRANCE "STILL INTENDS TO CALL THE TUNE IN BANGUI." ASSERTING THAT
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THE CREDIBILITY OF THE NEW CAR LEADERSHIP WILL GREATLY DEPEND

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UPON POPULAR SUPPORT, EDITORIAL STATES THAT "IF THE CHANGE IS FOREIGN-INSPIRED, THE PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR GENUINE FREEDOM...THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY AFRICA WILL NOT TAKE KINDLY ANY MOVES TO REPLACE ONE DESPOT WITH ANOTHER." SWAHILI LANGUAGE MZALENDO EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 23 TOOK A SIMILAR LINE, SUPPORTING THE OVERTHROW OF BOKASSA BUT ALSO ADOPTING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE ON THE SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT PENDING CLARIFICATION OF FRENCH INTENTIONS IN THE CAR.

3. (LOU) HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE OF OUSTER OF BOKASSA IS TO BE EXPECTED SINCE TANZANIA CONSIDERED BOKASSA ALONG WITH AMIN AND MACIAS AS THE THREE AFRICAN LEADERS WHO, BY THEIR FLAGRANT MISRULE, HAD DISCREDITED AFRICA IN THE WORLD'S EYES AND COMPLICATED EFFORTS TO LIBERATE SOUTHERN AFRICA. CONCERN OVER THE ROLE OF FRANCE IN THE OUSTER OF BOKASSA REFLECTS EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF TANGOV TO ANY INDICATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN POWERS SEEKING TO RESTORE THEIR INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.
WALKER



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